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INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Guatemala

DATE DRAFTED 2 March 2008

SUBJECT Preparations for New Agrarian Reform Law

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Augusto Charnaud MacDonald, Guatemalan Minister of Economy and Labor, is reported to have made a secret visit to Antigua, Guatemala, during the week of 1 February, in preparation for the new agrarian reform law which provides for the expropriation of all land held by a single individual in excess of 1250 acres and which will be introduced in March at the next session of the Congress.
2. Charnaud MacDonald visited the municipal offices and had three lists of property owners, who hold over 1250 acres, prepared. The first list was of those living in the State of Sacatepequez, of which Antigua is the capital. The second list was comprised of those who own land in Sacatepequez but live in Guatemala City. The third list consisted of persons possessing property in Sacatepequez but residing in other states. Similar lists are being compiled in the other departments or states. This will enable the government to know how much land will be available for redistribution, when and if the agrarian reform law is passed.

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